

REMARKS

The present invention is directed to polymeric compositions having desirable physical characteristics such as a high elongation of approximately 100 percent or greater, and refractive indices of approximately 1.45 or greater, useful in the manufacture of ophthalmic devices.

Claim 7 has been amended as indicated above to more clearly define the subject invention. Support for the amendment to claim 7 is found on pages 6 and 10, in addition to other locations throughout the subject specification.

Claims 7-13 and 19-28 stand objected because of the following informalities: "the limitation of Claim 1 should be included in claims 7-10 and 19-26, and in claim 1, line 2 should "alkyl", "alkyloxy", "aryl" and "aryloxy" be --alkylene--, --alkyleneoxy--, --arylene-- and --aryleneoxy--, respectively?"

Applicants respectfully traverse the objection of claims 7-13 and 19-28. Based on the above amendments to independent claim 7 and thus, to claims dependent thereon. Withdrawal of the objection to claims 7-13 and 19-28 is thereby respectfully requested.

Claims 7-13 and 19-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Toyoshima et al., U.S. Patent Number 4,954,586 (Toyoshima).

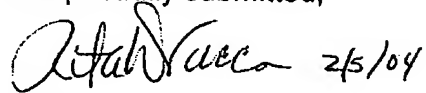
Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 7-13 and 19-28 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). Toyoshima teach a soft ocular lens material formed of a copolymer consisting essentially of a fluorine containing (meth)acrylate, an alkyl(meth)acrylate, a polysiloxane macromonomer having polymerizable groups at both terminals, and a polysiloxane macromonomer having polymerizable groups bonded via one or two urethane bonds (See abstract).

To the contrary, compositions of the present invention produced from siloxysilane monomers differ significantly from the Toyoshima polymeric compositions comprising tris(trimethylsiloxy)silylpropyl (meth)acrylate. In the defined monomers of the present invention, when z is 0, at least one R_1 group is not a C_1 alkyl. For this reason, in addition to others not discussed herein, the rejection of claims 7-13 and 19 - 28 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is inappropriate. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7-13 and 19 - 28 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is thereby respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendments and remarks, applicants believe pending claims 7-13 and 19-28 now stand in condition for allowance. Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

Should there be any questions regarding this communication, please
contact the undersigned at (636) 226-3340.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Rita D. Vacca, dated 2/5/04.

Rita D. Vacca
Reg. No. 33,624

Correspondence address:
Rita D. Vacca
Bausch & Lomb Incorporated
One Bausch & Lomb Place
Rochester, New York 14604-2701